

CONTINUING UMBRELLA OF RESEARCH EXPERIENCES (CURE)

Overview

The Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE), launched in 1997, is a national research-training and career-development initiative that focuses on building and sustaining a pipeline of diverse cancer investigators. Embracing a comprehensive training philosophy, CURE provides training opportunities for diverse students and trainees across the academic continuum in order to diversify the workforce in cancer and cancer health disparities research.

CURE is unique in being the first NIH program to offer long-term support to qualified, underrepresented students and professionals who, otherwise, are at risk of being lost from the training pipeline. CURE was—and still is—the only such organizational unit at NIH.

Goals



Eligibility

Eligible candidates include individuals at various career levels who come from groups shown to be underrepresented in biomedical science. Such candidates include individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Detailed criteria are described in the full funding announcements.

Mechanisms

The CURE program offers funding opportunities to support the training and career development of students, researchers, and early stage investigators using research supplements, predoctoral fellowships, and career development awards.

- **Diversity Research Supplements** to existing NCI grants encourage the recruitment and retention of individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in health-related sciences, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Students and trainees at any point in their academic and career development can take advantage of the diversity supplement, making it an excellent first step into cancer research. *(continued)*



Mechanisms continued:

- **CURE Supplements** are intended to increase the size of the talent pool and emphasize strategic and scientific areas of greatest need.
 - » *NCI Cancer Center* (P30) supplements for high school and undergraduate student research provide early intervention opportunities to increase the talent pool.
 - » *NCI Cancer Education and Career Development Program* (R25T) supplements provide opportunities for individuals underrepresented in cancer research to be trained in cancer prevention and control, epidemiology, nutrition and the behavioral and population sciences.
 - » *Clinical Oncology Research Development Awards* (K12) support newly-trained clinicians appointed by an institution for development of independent research skills and experience.
 - » *National Research Service Award Institutional Training Grants* (T32) support training opportunities at the pre- or post-doctoral level at qualified institutions.
- **Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award** (F31) provides support to predoctoral students pursuing a doctoral degree in biomedical, behavioral, social, clinical, or health services research.
- **Diversity Career Development Awards** support a transition from postdoctoral to early stage investigators.
 - » *NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award to Promote Diversity* (K01): Provides support to candidates with a research or health professional doctoral degree for intensive research-career development under the guidance of an experienced mentor in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence.
 - » *NCI Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity* (K08): Provides an intensive, supervised research experience for health professionals with a clinical degree, D.V.M., or equivalent degree to acquire research expertise to pursue a career in laboratory-based biomedical cancer research.
 - » *NCI Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity* (K23): Provides support to research-oriented clinicians to develop independent research skills and gain experience in advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to conduct patient-oriented research. Candidates must have completed their medical training including subspecialty, if applicable, before the award.
 - » *NCI Transition Career Development Award to Promote Diversity* (K22): Provides protected time and non-mentored support for individuals who are advanced postdoctoral and/or newly independent research scientists and who have been in an independent position for fewer than two years at the time of application. Awardees from each of the three “mentored” awards above are eligible to apply for the K22 award.



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For more information visit: <http://crchd.cancer.gov/diversity/cure-overview.html>

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